



**COMMANDING GENERAL
FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS**

15 January 1970

Dear Dan:

Thank you very much for letting me read your paper, which I am returning. I thought it very thought provoking.

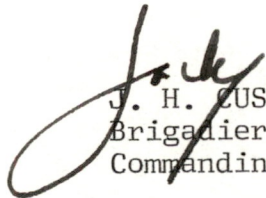
At a recent discussion meeting with the Nieman Fellows at Harvard on the subject of Vietnam, I ran into the same general line of thought - that the Vietnam problem by its very nature did not admit of a United States influenced solution, which solution would be "satisfactory" to the United States objectives as conceived in the early sixties. It may well be that we are headed toward an acceptance by public opinion that, regardless of how hard we would have tried, there was nothing that would have made our participation in Vietnam "successful".

Maybe this is a good way of persuading the American body politic to swallow an eventual failure in Vietnam. For my part, I am satisfied that a major improvement in our execution of Vietnam actions was feasible years ago and that, if coupled with somewhat modified delineation of objectives, this would have put us in a lot better shape than we are now. I am also satisfied in my own mind that the "cause" as laid out in the early sixties was a worthy one and deserving of United States action.

15 January 1970

I hope that if your travels bring you to Boston again you will let me know. I would enjoy much the chance to talk with you. One of these days I may find myself on the West Coast up Monterey way, and if the opportunity presents itself, I would like to swing by Rand on the way back and discuss these and other matters with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. H. Cushman", written over the typed name.

J. H. CUSHMAN
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

Mr. Daniel Ellsberg
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